

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7715

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T MONTEVIDEO 3423

EXDIS

TOSEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PE UY

SUBJ: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS--CONVERSATION WITH PERUVIAN

AMBASSADOR FERNAN CISNEROS

REF: MVD 3417

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

1. IN ORDER TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT AND DISARRAY AS BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY HERE WHEN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS BEGIN TO MAKE INEVITABLE INQUIRIES ABOUT PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS, I CALLED THIS AFTERNOON

ON MY OLD FRIEND THE AMBASSADOR OF PERU, FERNAN CISNEROS. I TOLD HIM THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO'S UNFORTUNATE AND INCORRECT CHARGES THAT I HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM PERU WERE AS HE KNEW CONTRARY TO THE FACTS AND I REVIEWED WITH HIM WHAT THESE ACTUALLY WERE. I THEN TOLD HIM THAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED FORMALLY AND PRIVATELY TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT THE TRUE FACTS OF MY DEPARTURE FROM PERU AS WELL AS TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT NEITHER I NOR FRANK ORTIZ IS OR EVER HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CIA AND THAT AT ALL TIMES DURING OUR SERVICE IN PERU WE ACTED WITH FULL
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RESPECT FOR THE LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THAT COUNTRY. I SAID THAT WHILE WE WERE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO ENGAGE HERE IN ANY POLEMICAL ACTIVITY AS AGAINST PRESIDENT VELASCO'S STATEMENTS, I WOULD BE OBLIGED TO STATE PRIVATELY IF ASKED BY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHAT THE

TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS AND I HOPED THAT AMBASSADOR CISNEROS WOULD DO THE SAME. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS AFRAID THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO HAD BECOME CONFUSED BY THE UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ME MADE AFTER MY DEPARTURE FROM PERU BY OIGA MAGAZINE WITH WHICH AMBASSADOR CISNEROS WAS FULLY FAMILIAR.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM AT ALL MAKING EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY VELASCO'S STATEMENT AND CLEAR TO OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES HERE, IF ASKED, THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO HAD BEEN CONFUSED AND THAT HIS REMARKS WERE ERRONEOUS. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT VELASCO'S CONDITION AS REVEALED IN HIS RECENT ACTIONS. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT SEEMS CLEARLY TO BE UNBALANCED IN MANY OF THE THINGS HE DOES, ILL-ADVISED AND UNTHINKING. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT IS CLEARLY SURROUNDED BY ELEMENTS WHICH ARE NEITHER GOOD FOR HIM NOR FOR PERU AND THAT THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY IS BECOMING EVER MORE SERIOUS. HE SAID HE HAS GREAT HOPES THAT CONDITIONS WILL IMPROVE AFTER JANUARY 1 WHEN MORALES BERMUDEA TAKES OVER AS PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE DOES NOT PERSONALLY KNOW MORALES BERMUDEA WELL, HE DOES KNOW THAT HE IS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE ABILITY WHO IS HIGHLY RESPECTED AND SUPPORTED BY THE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID HE WAS BOTH HOPEFUL AND CONFIDENT THAT WHEN MORALES BERMUDEZ REPLACES MERCADO JARIN THINGS WILL IMPROVE FOR PERU.
SIRACUSA

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